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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/623,449	07/18/2003	Andrew Reino Anderson	2316.709USC3	4004
7590	08/11/2005		EXAMINER	
Steven C. Bruess MERCHANT & GOULD P.C. P.O. Box 2903 Minneapolis, MN 55402-0903			VUONG, QUOCHIEN B	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2685	

DATE MAILED: 08/11/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/623,449	ANDERSON ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Quochien B. Vuong	2685	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 July 2003.  
 2a) This action is FINAL.                    2b) This action is non-final.  
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.  
 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.  
 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.  
 6) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.  
 7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.  
 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.  
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 18 July 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
     Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
     Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).  
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
 a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:  
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>04/25/05</u> .	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

## DETAILED ACTION

### ***Information Disclosure Statement***

1. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 04/25/2005 is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the information disclosure statement is being considered by the examiner.

### ***Double Patenting***

2. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

3. Claims 1-20 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of double patenting over claims 2-17 and 19 of U. S. Patent No. 6,049,709 since the claims, if allowed, would improperly extend the "right to exclude" already granted in the patent.

The subject matter claimed in the instant application is fully disclosed in the patent and is covered by the patent since the patent and the application are claiming common subject matter, as follows:

Regarding claim 1, claim 2 of U.S. Patent No. 6,049,709 encompasses all the claimed limitations including a module for containing a circuit for performing discrete circuit functions on a radio frequency signal, said module comprising: a housing of electrically conductive material defining an enclosed interior; said housing having a front face and an opposite rear face separated by opposite sidewalls and opposite end walls; a plurality of coax connectors secured to said rear face with an outer shield of said connectors electrically coupled to said housing; a circuit board contained within said interior and positioned generally parallel to and spaced between said sidewalls; said circuit board having a component side opposing a first of said sidewalls and a ground side opposing a second of said sidewalls; said ground side including a layer of electrically conductive material electrically connected to said housing; a plurality of coax cable connection locations on said ground side of said circuit board, each of said coax cable connections including a ground connection for connecting ground shields of coax cables to said layer of electrically conductive material; said component side of said circuit board including a plurality of circuit components interconnected with one another and with said coax cable connection locations through a plurality of circuit paths; a plurality of coax cables disposed within said interior and connected to individual ones of said coax connectors and said coax cable connection locations, each of said coax cables having ground shields connected to said outer shields of said connectors and to said ground connections of said coax cable connection locations; and said plurality of cables routed for said cables to be disposed between said ground side of said circuit board and said second of said sidewalls.

Regarding claim 2, claim 3 of U.S. Patent No. 6,049,709 encompasses all the claimed limitations including wherein said circuit paths are sized to have an impedance selected to balance a parasitic reactance between said circuit board and said housing.

Regarding claim 3, claim 4 of U.S. Patent No. 6,049,709 encompasses all the claimed limitations including wherein said plurality of components includes splitter components for receiving a main signal from one of said coax connection locations and dividing said main signal into a plurality of branch signals delivered along said circuit paths to individual remaining ones of said coax connection locations.

Regarding claim 4, claim 5 of U.S. Patent No. 6,049,709 encompasses all the claimed limitations including wherein said splitters components are adapted to act as combiner components for receiving said plurality of branch signals from said individual ones of said coax connection locations and combining said branch signals into said main signal delivered along one of said circuit paths to said one of said coax connection locations.

Regarding claim 5, claim 6 of U.S. Patent No. 6,049,709 encompasses all the claimed limitations including wherein said splitter components includes at least a first splitter and a second splitter connected in series.

Regarding claim 6, claim 7 of U.S. Patent No. 6,049,709 encompasses all the claimed limitations including wherein said splitter components includes a third splitter connected in series with said first splitter and in parallel with said second splitter.

Regarding claim 7, claim 8 of U.S. Patent No. 6,049,709 encompasses all the claimed limitations including wherein said circuit components include a plurality of attenuators associated with individual ones of said branch circuits.

Regarding claim 8, claim 8 of U.S. Patent No. 6,049,709 encompasses all the claimed limitations including wherein said attenuators include a variable attenuator component for varying an amount of attenuation of said attenuators.

Regarding claim 9, claim 8 of U.S. Patent No. 6,049,709 encompasses all the claimed limitations including wherein said attenuators includes a first attenuator component mounted on said component side of said circuit board and said variable attenuator component removably secured to said first component with said variable attenuator component selected for a fixed desired attenuation.

Regarding claim 10, claim 9 of U.S. Patent No. 6,049,709 encompasses all the claimed limitations including wherein: said attenuators are positioned adjacent said front face; said front face having an opening sized to pass said second variable attenuator component through said front face; an electrically conductive cover releasably secured to said front face and sized to cover said opening.

Regarding claim 11, claim 10 of U.S. Patent No. 6,049,709 encompasses all the claimed limitations including wherein said cover and said front face include an electrically conductive, mechanically deformable seal.

Regarding claim 12, claim 11 of U.S. Patent No. 6,049,709 encompasses all the claimed limitations including wherein said front face is removable from a remainder of

said housing and includes electrically conductive, mechanically resilient conductors extending between said front face and said layer of conductive material.

Regarding claim 13, claim 12 of U.S. Patent No. 6,049,709 encompasses all the claimed limitations including wherein said front face includes a protruding ledge disposed to support a leading edge of said circuit card.

Regarding claim 14, claim 13 of U.S. Patent No. 6,049,709 encompasses all the claimed limitations including wherein said circuit components include a directional coupler for diverting a portion of said main signal to a connector location connected to a monitor coax connector.

Regarding claim 15, claim 14 of U.S. Patent No. 6,049,709 encompasses all the claimed limitations including wherein said monitor coax connector is exposed on said front face.

Regarding claim 16, claim 15 of U.S. Patent No. 6,049,709 encompasses all the claimed limitations including wherein said circuit components include a directional coupler.

Regarding claim 17, claim 16 of U.S. Patent No. 6,049,709 encompasses all the claimed limitations including wherein said components include an equalizer for equalizing a radio frequency signal along a frequency range.

Regarding claim 18, claim 16 of U.S. Patent No. 6,049,709 encompasses all the claimed limitations including wherein said equalizer includes a first equalizer component mounted on said component side of said circuit board and a variable equalizer

component removably secured to said first component with said variable equalizer component selected for a fixed desired radio frequency equalization.

Regarding claim 19, claim 17 of U.S. Patent No. 6,049,709 encompasses all the claimed limitations including wherein: said equalizer is positioned adjacent said front face; said front face having an opening sized to pass said second variable equalizer component through said front face; an electrically conductive cover releasably secured to said front face and sized to cover said opening.

Regarding claim 20, claim 19 of U.S. Patent No. 6,049,709 encompasses all the claimed limitations including a chassis and module combination for permitting selective housing of a plurality of modules containing radio frequency circuits, said combination comprising:

A. a plurality of modules each having: a housing of electrically conductive material defining an enclosed interior; said housing having a front face and an opposite rear face separated by opposite sidewalls and opposite end walls, with each of said faces and sidewalls being of predetermined dimension and with said sidewalls being parallel to one another; a plurality of coax connectors secured to said rear face with an outer shield of said connectors electrically coupled to said housing; a circuit board contained within said interior and positioned generally parallel to and spaced between said sidewalls; said circuit board having a component side opposing a first of said sidewalls and a ground side opposing a second of said sidewalls; said ground side including a layer of electrically conductive material electrically connected to said housing; a plurality of coax cable connection locations on said circuit board, each of

said coax cable connections including a ground connection for connecting ground shields of coax cables to said layer of electrically conductive material; said component side of said circuit board including a plurality of circuit components interconnected with one another and with said coax cable connection locations through a plurality of circuit paths; said circuit components selected to perform a circuit function on a radio frequency signal supplied to one of said connectors and to provide an output radio frequency signal to a remainder of said connectors; a plurality of coax cables disposed within said interior and connected to individual ones of said coax connectors and said coax cable connection locations, each of said coax cables having ground shields connected to said outer shields of said connectors and to said ground connections of said coax cable connection locations; each of said end walls having a projecting flange extending in a common plane generally parallel to said sidewalls and with said common plane offset from a central longitudinal axis of said housing; said front face including end portions extending beyond each of said end walls; a locking member secured to each of said end portions and having a locking end extending through a rear surface of said end portions; at least one of said locking members positioned offset from a longitudinal axis of said front face;

B. a first chassis having: a first chassis frame including horizontally spaced apart first sidewalls and vertically spaced apart first top and bottom walls with said first top and bottom walls spaced apart by a distance substantially equal to a distance between said end walls of said modules; each of said first top and bottom walls including a plurality of vertically aligned first grooves sized to slidably receive said projecting

flanges; said first grooves spaced along said first top and bottom walls for a predetermined number of said modules to be slidably received within said first frame in a vertical orientation with said longitudinal axis of said front face vertically disposed and with opposing sidewalls of adjacent modules narrowly spaced apart; a plurality of first mating lock members on each of said first top and bottom walls and positioned to mate with said locking members of said modules when said modules are received within said first frame in a predetermined orientation and with said flanges received within said first grooves;

C. a second chassis having: a second chassis frame including horizontally spaced apart second sidewalls and vertically spaced apart second top and bottom walls; an intermediate wall extending vertically between said second top and bottom walls and centrally positioned between said second sidewalls with said intermediate wall dividing said second frame into a left column and a right column; said second sidewalls spaced from said intermediate wall by a distance substantially equal to a distance between said end walls of said modules; each of said second sidewalls and intermediate wall including a plurality of horizontally aligned second grooves sized to slidably receive said projecting flanges; said second grooves spaced along said second sidewalls and said intermediate wall for half of said predetermined number of said modules to be slidably received within said left column of said second frame in a horizontal orientation with said longitudinal axis of said front face horizontally disposed and with opposing sidewalls of adjacent modules narrowly spaced apart; said second grooves further spaced along said second sidewalls and said intermediate wall for half

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of said predetermined number of said modules to be slidably received within said right column of said second frame in a horizontal orientation with said longitudinal axis of said front face horizontally disposed and with opposing sidewalls of adjacent modules narrowly spaced apart; and a plurality of second mating lock members on each of said second sidewalls and intermediate wall and positioned to mate with said locking members of said modules when said modules are received within said second frame in a predetermined orientation and with said flanges received within said second grooves.

Furthermore, there is no apparent reason why applicant was prevented from presenting claims corresponding to those of the instant application during prosecution of the application which matured into a patent. See *In re Schneller*, 397 F.2d 350, 158 USPQ 210 (CCPA 1968). See also MPEP § 804.

4. Claims 1-20 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of double patenting over claims 2-8, 12, 13 and 16 of U. S. Patent No. 6,289,210 since the claims, if allowed, would improperly extend the "right to exclude" already granted in the patent.

The subject matter claimed in the instant application is fully disclosed in the patent and is covered by the patent since the patent and the application are claiming common subject matter, as follows:

Regarding claim 1, claim 2 of U.S. Patent No. 6,289,210 encompasses all the claimed limitations including a module for containing a circuit for performing discrete circuit functions on a radio frequency signal, said module comprising: a housing of electrically conductive material defining an enclosed interior; said housing having a front

face and an opposite rear face separated by opposite sidewalls and opposite end walls; a plurality of coax connectors secured to said rear face with an outer shield of said connectors electrically coupled to said housing; a circuit board contained within said interior and positioned generally parallel to and spaced between said sidewalls; said circuit board having a component side opposing a first of said sidewalls and a ground side opposing a second of said sidewalls; said ground side including a layer of electrically conductive material electrically connected to said housing; a plurality of coax cable connection locations on said ground side of said circuit board, each of said coax cable connections including a ground connection for connecting ground shields of coax cables to said layer of electrically conductive material; said component side of said circuit board including a plurality of circuit components interconnected with one another and with said coax cable connection locations through a plurality of circuit paths; a plurality of coax cables disposed within said interior and connected to individual ones of said coax connectors and said coax cable connection locations, each of said coax cables having ground shields connected to said outer shields of said connectors and to said ground connections of said coax cable connection locations; and said plurality of cables routed for said cables to be disposed between said ground side of said circuit board and said second of said sidewalls.

Regarding claim 2, claim 3 of U.S. Patent No. 6,289,210 encompasses all the claimed limitations including wherein said circuit paths are sized to have an impedance selected to balance a parasitic reactance between said circuit board and said housing.

Regarding claim 3, claim 4 of U.S. Patent No. 6,289,210 encompasses all the claimed limitations including wherein said plurality of components includes splitter components for receiving a main signal from one of said coax connection locations and dividing said main signal into a plurality of branch signals delivered along said circuit paths to individual remaining ones of said coax connection locations.

Regarding claim 4, claim 5 of U.S. Patent No. 6,289,210 encompasses all the claimed limitations including wherein said splitters components are adapted to act as combiner components for receiving said plurality of branch signals from said individual ones of said coax connection locations and combining said branch signals into said main signal delivered along one of said circuit paths to said one of said coax connection locations.

Regarding claim 5, claim 6 of U.S. Patent No. 6,289,210 encompasses all the claimed limitations including wherein said splitter components includes at least a first splitter and a second splitter connected in series.

Regarding claim 6, claim 7 of U.S. Patent No. 6,289,210 encompasses all the claimed limitations including wherein said splitter components includes a third splitter connected in series with said first splitter and in parallel with said second splitter.

Regarding claim 7, claim 8 of U.S. Patent No. 6,289,210 encompasses all the claimed limitations including wherein said circuit components include a plurality of attenuators associated with individual ones of said branch circuits.

Regarding claim 8, claim 8 of U.S. Patent No. 6,289,210 encompasses all the claimed limitations including wherein said attenuators include a variable attenuator component for varying an amount of attenuation of said attenuators.

Regarding claim 9, claim 8 of U.S. Patent No. 6,289,210 encompasses all the claimed limitations including wherein said attenuators includes a first attenuator component mounted on said component side of said circuit board and said variable attenuator component removably secured to said first component with said variable attenuator component selected for a fixed desired attenuation.

Regarding claim 10, claim 2 of U.S. Patent No. 6,289,210 encompasses all the claimed limitations including wherein: said attenuators are positioned adjacent said front face; said front face having an opening sized to pass said second variable attenuator component through said front face; an electrically conductive cover releasably secured to said front face and sized to cover said opening.

Regarding claim 11, claim 2 of U.S. Patent No. 6,289,210 encompasses all the claimed limitations including wherein said cover and said front face include an electrically conductive, mechanically deformable seal.

Regarding claim 12, claim 2 of U.S. Patent No. 6,289,210 encompasses all the claimed limitations including wherein said front face is removable from a remainder of said housing and includes electrically conductive, mechanically resilient conductors extending between said front face and said layer of conductive material.

Regarding claim 13, claim 12 of U.S. Patent No. 6,289,210 encompasses all the claimed limitations including wherein said front face includes a protruding ledge disposed to support a leading edge of said circuit card.

Regarding claim 14, claim 13 of U.S. Patent No. 6,289,210 encompasses all the claimed limitations including wherein said circuit components include a directional coupler for diverting a portion of said main signal to a connector location connected to a monitor coax connector.

Regarding claim 15, claim 13 of U.S. Patent No. 6,289,210 encompasses all the claimed limitations including wherein said monitor coax connector is exposed on said front face.

Regarding claim 16, claim 13 of U.S. Patent No. 6,289,210 encompasses all the claimed limitations including wherein said circuit components include a directional coupler.

Regarding claim 17, claim 12 of U.S. Patent No. 6,289,210 encompasses all the claimed limitations including wherein said components include an equalizer for equalizing a radio frequency signal along a frequency range.

Regarding claim 18, claim 12 of U.S. Patent No. 6,289,210 encompasses all the claimed limitations including wherein said equalizer includes a first equalizer component mounted on said component side of said circuit board and a variable equalizer component removably secured to said first component with said variable equalizer component selected for a fixed desired radio frequency equalization.

Regarding claim 19, claim 16 of U.S. Patent No. 6,289,210 encompasses all the claimed limitations including wherein: said equalizer is positioned adjacent said front face; said front face having an opening sized to pass said second variable equalizer component through said front face; an electrically conductive cover releasably secured to said front face and sized to cover said opening.

Regarding claim 20, claim 19 of U.S. Patent No. 6,289,210 encompasses all the claimed limitations including a chassis and module combination for permitting selective housing of a plurality of modules containing radio frequency circuits, said combination comprising:

A. a plurality of modules each having: a housing of electrically conductive material defining an enclosed interior; said housing having a front face and an opposite rear face separated by opposite sidewalls and opposite end walls, with each of said faces and sidewalls being of predetermined dimension and with said sidewalls being parallel to one another; a plurality of coax connectors secured to said rear face with an outer shield of said connectors electrically coupled to said housing; a circuit board contained within said interior and positioned generally parallel to and spaced between said sidewalls; said circuit board having a component side opposing a first of said sidewalls and a ground side opposing a second of said sidewalls; said ground side including a layer of electrically conductive material electrically connected to said housing; a plurality of coax cable connection locations on said circuit board, each of said coax cable connections including a ground connection for connecting ground shields of coax cables to said layer of electrically conductive material; said component

side of said circuit board including a plurality of circuit components interconnected with one another and with said coax cable connection locations through a plurality of circuit paths; said circuit components selected to perform a circuit function on a radio frequency signal supplied to one of said connectors and to provide an output radio frequency signal to a remainder of said connectors; a plurality of coax cables disposed within said interior and connected to individual ones of said coax connectors and said coax cable connection locations, each of said coax cables having ground shields connected to said outer shields of said connectors and to said ground connections of said coax cable connection locations; each of said end walls having a projecting flange extending in a common plane generally parallel to said sidewalls and with said common plane offset from a central longitudinal axis of said housing; said front face including end portions extending beyond each of said end walls; a locking member secured to each of said end portions and having a locking end extending through a rear surface of said end portions; at least one of said locking members positioned offset from a longitudinal axis of said front face;

B. a first chassis having: a first chassis frame including horizontally spaced apart first sidewalls and vertically spaced apart first top and bottom walls with said first top and bottom walls spaced apart by a distance substantially equal to a distance between said end walls of said modules; each of said first top and bottom walls including a plurality of vertically aligned first grooves sized to slidably receive said projecting flanges; said first grooves spaced along said first top and bottom walls for a predetermined number of said modules to be slidably received within said first frame in

a vertical orientation with said longitudinal axis of said front face vertically disposed and with opposing sidewalls of adjacent modules narrowly spaced apart; a plurality of first mating lock members on each of said first top and bottom walls and positioned to mate with said locking members of said modules when said modules are received within said first frame in a predetermined orientation and with said flanges received within said first grooves;

C. a second chassis having: a second chassis frame including horizontally spaced apart second sidewalls and vertically spaced apart second top and bottom walls; an intermediate wall extending vertically between said second top and bottom walls and centrally positioned between said second sidewalls with said intermediate wall dividing said second frame into a left column and a right column; said second sidewalls spaced from said intermediate wall by a distance substantially equal to a distance between said end walls of said modules; each of said second sidewalls and intermediate wall including a plurality of horizontally aligned second grooves sized to slidably receive said projecting flanges; said second grooves spaced along said second sidewalls and said intermediate wall for half of said predetermined number of said modules to be slidably received within said left column of said second frame in a horizontal orientation with said longitudinal axis of said front face horizontally disposed and with opposing sidewalls of adjacent modules narrowly spaced apart; said second grooves further spaced along said second sidewalls and said intermediate wall for half of said predetermined number of said modules to be slidably received within said right column of said second frame in a horizontal orientation with said longitudinal axis of

said front face horizontally disposed and with opposing sidewalls of adjacent modules narrowly spaced apart; and a plurality of second mating lock members on each of said second sidewalls and intermediate wall and positioned to mate with said locking members of said modules when said modules are received within said second frame in a predetermined orientation and with said flanges received within said second grooves.

Furthermore, there is no apparent reason why applicant was prevented from presenting claims corresponding to those of the instant application during prosecution of the application which matured into a patent. See *In re Schneller*, 397 F.2d 350, 158 USPQ 210 (CCPA 1968). See also MPEP § 804.

### ***Conclusion***

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Quochien B. Vuong whose telephone number is (571) 272-7902. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:30-18:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward Urban can be reached on (571) 272-7899. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Quochien B. Vuong  
Aug. 08, 2005.



QUOCHIEN B. VUONG  
PRIMARY EXAMINER